

# Critical groups for Hopf algebra modules

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*joint work with Victor Reiner (UMN) and Jia Huang (UNK)*

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**slides:**

[http:](http://www.cip.ifi.lmu.de/~grinberg/algebra/madison17.pdf)

[//www.cip.ifi.lmu.de/~grinberg/algebra/madison17.pdf](http://www.cip.ifi.lmu.de/~grinberg/algebra/madison17.pdf)

**paper:**

[http://www.cip.ifi.lmu.de/~grinberg/algebra/](http://www.cip.ifi.lmu.de/~grinberg/algebra/McKayTensor.pdf)

[McKayTensor.pdf](http://www.cip.ifi.lmu.de/~grinberg/algebra/McKayTensor.pdf) or [arXiv:1704.03778v1](https://arxiv.org/abs/1704.03778v1)

# 1

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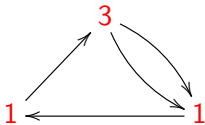
## Chip-firing on digraphs

### References:

- Alexander E. Holroyd, Lionel Levine, Karola Mészáros, Yuval Peres, James Propp, David B. Wilson, *Chip-Firing and Rotor-Routing on Directed Graphs*, arXiv:0801.3306.
- Georgia Benkart, Caroline Klivans, Victor Reiner, *Chip firing on Dynkin diagrams and McKay quivers*, arXiv:1601.06849.

## Chip-firing on digraphs and the critical group

- *Chip-firing* on a loopless digraph  $D$  is a “solitaire game” (rigorously: rewriting system, or finite state machine). A brief definition:
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- **Example:**  
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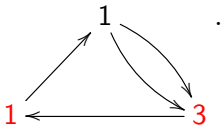


(The vertices drawn in red are the ones that can be fired.)  
Let us fire the top vertex.

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After firing the top vertex, obtain

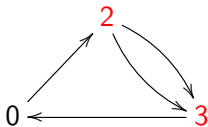


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## Chip-firing on digraphs and the critical group

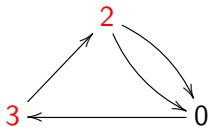
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- **Example:**

After then firing the bottom left vertex, get



Let us fire the bottom right vertex thrice.

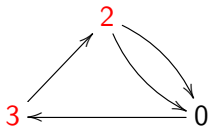
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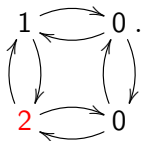
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And so on... this game can (and will) go on forever.

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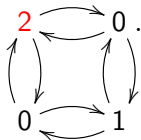


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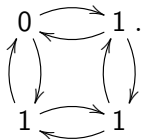
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After then firing the top left vertex, get



No more firing is possible here; the game has *terminated*.

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- We see that the chip-firing game will sometimes terminate after finitely many steps, but sometimes never will. There are some nontrivial results (Björner, Lovasz, Shor and others):
  - Whether it terminates depends only on the starting configuration (not on the choices of vertices to fire).
  - If it terminates, the configuration obtained in the end depends only on the starting configuration.

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- A neater situation is obtained if we fix a “global sink”  $q$  (a vertex reachable from every vertex), and disallow firing  $q$ . Then, the game **always** terminates. Again, there are remarkable properties (see [Holroyd et al., arXiv:0801.3306](#)):
  - The configuration obtained in the end depends only on the starting configuration.
  - “Sandpile monoid” and “sandpile group”.
  - Relations to Eulerian walks and to spanning trees.

- We can describe chip-firing on a loopless digraph  $D$  via the Laplacian of  $D$ .
- Label the vertices of  $D$  by  $1, 2, \dots, n$ .
- The *Laplacian* of  $D$  is the  $n \times n$ -matrix  $L$  whose  $(i, j)$ -th entry is

$$L_{i,j} = \begin{cases} \deg^+ i, & \text{if } j = i; \\ -a_{i,j}, & \text{if } j \neq i \end{cases},$$

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- The same holds for the variant where we fix a global sink  $q$  and never fire it...

- We can describe chip-firing on a loopless digraph  $D$  with a global sink  $q$  via the **reduced** Laplacian of  $D$ .
- Label the vertices of  $D$  by  $1, 2, \dots, n$  in such a way that the global sink  $q$  is  $n$ .
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- Restating everything in terms of the Laplacian  $L$  and forgetting about the digraph allows us to crystallize the important parts of the argument and gain further generality.

- A *Z-matrix* is an  $\ell \times \ell$ -matrix  $C \in \mathbb{Z}^{\ell \times \ell}$  whose off-diagonal entries  $C_{i,j}$  (with  $i \neq j$ ) are all  $\leq 0$ .

## Nonsingular M-matrices, 2

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  - $C$  is a nonsingular M-matrix.
  - $C^T$  is a nonsingular M-matrix.
  - There exists a column vector  $x \in \mathbb{Q}^{\ell}$  with  $x > 0$  and  $Cx > 0$ . (Again, entrywise.)
  - The “generalized chip-firing game” in which we start with a row vector  $r \geq 0$  and keep subtracting rows of  $C$  while keeping the vector  $\geq 0$  is confluent (i.e., terminates, and the final state depends only on the starting state).



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- Actually, “depends only on the starting state” follows from “Z-matrix”, but termination requires “nonsingular M-matrix”.

- Given a digraph  $D$  with a chosen global sink  $q$ , we can define a finite abelian monoid as follows:
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  - The *stabilization* of a configuration  $x$  is the configuration obtained from  $x$  by repeatedly firing vertices ( $\neq q$ ) until this no longer becomes possible. We call this stabilization  $x^\circ$ .
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  - A configuration is *stable* if no vertex can be fired in it.
  - The *sandpile monoid* of  $(D, q)$  is the monoid of all stable configurations, with monoid operation given by  $(f, g) \mapsto (f + g)^\circ$ .

## The critical group

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  - If  $M$  is a finite abelian monoid, then the intersection of all (nonempty) ideals of  $M$  is a group. (Neat exercise.)
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- When  $D$  is Eulerian, we have  $\text{coker}(L^T) = \underbrace{\mathbb{Z}}_{\text{free part}} \oplus \underbrace{K(D)}_{\text{torsion part}}$ .
- Much of chip-firing theory doesn't need a digraph. A square matrix over  $\mathbb{Z}$  is enough... and a nonsingular M-matrix is particularly helpful.



# 2

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## The critical group of a group character

### References:

- Georgia Benkart, Caroline Klivans, Victor Reiner, *Chip firing on Dynkin diagrams and McKay quivers*, arXiv:1601.06849.
- Christian Gaetz, *Critical groups of McKay-Cartan matrices*, honors thesis 2016.
- Victor Reiner's talk slides.

## The McKay matrix of a representation, 1

- Where else can we get nonsingular M-matrices from?

## The McKay matrix of a representation, 1

- Let  $G$  be a finite group.  
Let  $S_1, S_2, \dots, S_{\ell+1}$  be the irreps (= irreducible representations) of  $G$  over  $\mathbb{C}$ . Let  $\chi_1, \chi_2, \dots, \chi_{\ell+1}$  be their characters.

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- Fix any representation  $V$  of  $G$  over  $\mathbb{C}$  (not necessarily irreducible), and let  $\chi_V$  be its character. Set  $n = \dim V = \chi_V(e)$ .

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- Fix any representation  $V$  of  $G$  over  $\mathbb{C}$  (not necessarily irreducible), and let  $\chi_V$  be its character. Set  $n = \dim V = \chi_V(e)$ .
- The *McKay matrix* of  $V$  is the  $(\ell + 1) \times (\ell + 1)$ -matrix  $M_V$  whose  $(i, j)$ -th entry is the coefficient  $m_{i,j}$  in the expansion

$$\chi_{S_i \otimes V} = \chi_i \chi_V = \sum_{j=1}^{\ell+1} m_{i,j} \chi_j.$$

## The McKay matrix of a representation, 1

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$$\chi_{S_i \otimes V} = \chi_i \chi_V = \sum_{j=1}^{\ell+1} m_{i,j} \chi_j.$$

- We define a further  $(\ell + 1) \times (\ell + 1)$ -matrix  $L_V$  (our “Laplacian”) by  $L_V = nI - M_V$ .

**Warning:** Unlike the digraph case, the matrix  $L_V$  neither has row sums 0 nor has column sums 0!

- Example:** The symmetric group  $\mathfrak{S}_4$  has 5 irreps  $S_1, S_2, S_3, S_4, S_5$ , corresponding to the partitions  $(4), (3, 1), (2, 2), (2, 1, 1), (1, 1, 1, 1)$ , respectively. We shall just call them  $D^4, D^{31}, D^{22}, D^{211}, D^{1111}$  for clarity.

Their characters

$\chi_0 = \chi_{D^4}, \chi_1 = \chi_{D^{31}}, \chi_2 = \chi_{D^{22}}, \chi_3 = \chi_{D^{211}}, \chi_4 = \chi_{D^{1111}}$  are the rows of the following character table:

	$e$	$(ij)$	$(ij)(kl)$	$(ijk)$	$(ijkl)$
$\chi_{D^4}$	1	1	1	1	1
$\chi_{D^{31}}$	3	1	0	-1	-1
$\chi_{D^{22}}$	2	0	-1	2	0
$\chi_{D^{211}}$	3	-1	0	-1	1
$\chi_{D^{1111}}$	1	-1	1	1	-1

(these are given by weighted counting of rim hook tableaux, according to the Murnaghan-Nakayama rule).

- **Example (cont'd):** Let  $V = D^{31}$ . Then, the McKay matrix  $M_V$  is

$$M_V = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

(these are Kronecker coefficients, since  $D^{31}$  too is irreducible).



- **Example (cont'd):** Let  $V = D^{31}$ . Then, the McKay matrix  $M_V$  is

$$M_V = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

For example, the **second row** is because

$$\chi_{D^{31} \otimes D^{31}} = 1\chi_{D^4} + 1\chi_{D^{31}} + 1\chi_{D^{22}} + 1\chi_{D^{211}} + 0\chi_{D^{1111}}.$$

- **Example (cont'd):** Let  $V = D^{31}$ . Then, the McKay matrix  $M_V$  is

$$M_V = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

For example, the **third row** is because

$$\chi_{D^{22} \otimes D^{31}} = 0\chi_{D^4} + 1\chi_{D^{31}} + 0\chi_{D^{22}} + 1\chi_{D^{211}} + 0\chi_{D^{1111}}.$$

- **Example (cont'd):** Let  $V = D^{31}$ . Then, the McKay matrix  $M_V$  is

$$M_V = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Hence,

$$L_V = \underbrace{n}_{=\dim V=3} I - M_V = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 3 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

## The critical group of a representation

- Let  $\overline{L}_V$  be the matrix  $L_V$  with its row and column corresponding to the trivial irrep removed. This is an  $\ell \times \ell$ -matrix.
- Define the *critical group*  $K(V)$  of  $V$  by  $K(V) = \text{coker}(\overline{L}_V)$ .
- Also,  $\text{coker}(L_V) \cong \mathbb{Z} \oplus K(V)$ .  
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- In our above **example**,

$$L_V = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 3 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \implies \overline{L}_V = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 3 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

(Here, we removed the 1-st row and 1-st column, since they index the trivial irrep.)

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Hence,  $K(V) = \text{coker}(\overline{L}_V) \cong \mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z}$ .

- (Recall that the cokernel of a square matrix  $M \in \mathbb{Z}^{N \times N}$  is  $\cong \bigoplus_i (\mathbb{Z}/m_i\mathbb{Z})$ , where the  $m_i$  are the diagonal entries in the Smith normal form of  $M$ . This is how the above was computed.)

- **Theorems (Benkart, Klivans, Reiner, Gaetz):**

- The column vector  $\mathbf{s} = (\dim S_1, \dim S_2, \dots, \dim S_{\ell+1})^T$  belongs to  $\ker(L_V)$ .

It spans the  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module  $\ker(L_V)$  if and only if the  $G$ -representation  $V$  is faithful.

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- Actually,  $M_V$  and  $L_V$  can be diagonalized:

For each  $g \in G$ , the vector

$\mathbf{s}(g) = (\chi_{S_1}(g), \chi_{S_2}(g), \dots, \chi_{S_{\ell+1}}(g))^T$  (a column of the character table of  $G$ ) is an eigenvector of  $M_V$  (with eigenvalue  $\chi_V(g)$ ) and of  $L_V$  (with eigenvalue  $n - \chi_V(g)$ ).



- **Theorems (Benkart, Klivans, Reiner, Gaetz):**

- If the  $G$ -representation  $V$  is faithful, then  $\overline{L_V}$  is a nonsingular M-matrix.

(Hence, a theory of “chip-firing” exists. Benkart, Klivans and Reiner have further results on this, but much is still unexplored.)

For **some** groups  $G$  and representations  $V$ , this “chip-firing” is equivalent to actual chip-firing on certain specific digraphs. See Benkart-Klivans-Reiner paper.)

- **Theorems (Benkart, Klivans, Reiner, Gaetz):**
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$$\#K(V) = \frac{1}{\#G} \prod_{G\text{-conjugacy class } [g] \neq [e]} (n - \chi_V(g)).$$

- For the regular  $G$ -representation  $\mathbb{C}G$ , we have

$$K(\mathbb{C}G) \cong (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^{\ell-1}.$$

Here,  $n = \dim(\mathbb{C}G) = \#G$  and

$\ell = (\text{number of } G\text{-conjugacy classes}) - 1.$

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  - finite-dimensional  $\rightarrow$  arbitrary dimension.
  - finite group  $\rightarrow$  finite-dimensional Hopf algebra.
- We shall only study the two blue directions. (The others are interesting, too!)

# 3

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## The critical group of a Hopf algebra module

References:

- Darij Grinberg, Jia Huang, Victor Reiner, *Critical groups for Hopf algebra modules*, arXiv:1704.03778.

- Let  $\mathbb{F}$  be any algebraically closed field of any characteristic.
- All  $\mathbb{F}$ -vector spaces in the following are finite-dimensional.  
dim always means  $\mathbb{F}$ -vector space dimension.  
 $\otimes$  always means  $\otimes_{\mathbb{F}}$ .
- Let  $A$  be a finite-dimensional Hopf algebra over  $\mathbb{F}$ . This means:
  - First of all,  $A$  is an  $\mathbb{F}$ -algebra.
  - Also,  $A$  is finite-dimensional as an  $\mathbb{F}$ -vector space.
  - Also,  $A$  is equipped with
    - a comultiplication  $\Delta : A \rightarrow A \otimes A$ ,
    - a counit  $\epsilon : A \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$ ,
    - an antipode  $\alpha : A \rightarrow A$satisfying certain axioms.

- In the following, “ $A$ -module” means “left  $A$ -module”.
- Classical results on representations of  $A$ :
  - There are finitely many simple  $A$ -modules  $S_1, S_2, \dots, S_{\ell+1}$ ,  
and finitely many indecomposable projective  $A$ -modules  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_{\ell+1}$ ,  
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- For an  $A$ -module  $V$ , if  $[V : S_i]$  denotes the multiplicity of  $S_i$  as a composition factor of  $V$ , then

$$[V : S_i] = \dim \operatorname{Hom}_A(P_i, V).$$

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  - make the homspace  $\text{Hom}(V, W) = \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{F}}(V, W)$  (any unadorned  $\text{Hom}$  sign means  $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{F}}$  here and henceforth) of two  $A$ -modules  $V$  and  $W$  into an  $A$ -module as well (using  $\Delta$  and  $\alpha$ ),

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and thus in particular define a “dual  $A$ -module”  $V^*$  of an  $A$ -module  $V$  (without switching sides).

- **Example 1:** Let  $A$  be the group algebra  $\mathbb{F}G$  of a finite group  $G$ .

This becomes a Hopf algebra by setting

$$\epsilon(g) = 1,$$

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Note that if  $\text{char } \mathbb{F} = 0$ , then  $A$  is semisimple, so that the theory dramatically simplifies (e.g., we have  $P_i = S_i$  for all  $i$ ).

- **“Example 0”**: This example does not really fit into our framework (yet?), but is too good to omit:  
Let  $A$  be the universal enveloping algebra  $U(\mathfrak{g})$  of a Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$ .  
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The  $A$ -modules are precisely the representations of  $\mathfrak{g}$ ; the notions of tensor product, trivial module, etc. are the ones we know from Lie algebra representation theory.

Sadly,  $A$  is usually infinite-dimensional, and our theory is not ready for this. (Restricted universal enveloping algebras in characteristic  $p$  do work, though.)

- **Example 2:** Fix integers  $m \geq 0$  and  $n > 0$  with  $m \mid n$ . Fix a primitive  $n$ -th root of unity  $\omega \in \mathbb{F}$ . (Recall we assumed  $\mathbb{F}$  algebraically closed!)

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As an  $\mathbb{F}$ -algebra, the *generalized Taft Hopf algebra*  $A = H_{n,m}$  is given by

generators  $g, x;$

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More conceptual definition:  $A$  is a skew group ring

$$H_{n,m} = \mathbb{F}[\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}] \ltimes \mathbb{F}[x]/(x^m)$$

for the cyclic group  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} = \{e, g, g^2, \dots, g^{n-1}\}$  acting on coefficients in a truncated polynomial algebra  $\mathbb{F}[x]/(x^m)$ , via  $gxg^{-1} = \omega^{-1}x$ .

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This  $A$  has  $\mathbb{F}$ -basis  $\{g^i x^j : 0 \leq i < n \text{ and } 0 \leq j < m\}$ , whence  $\dim A = mn$ .

It becomes a Hopf algebra by setting

$$\begin{array}{ll} \epsilon(g) = 1, & \epsilon(x) = 0, \\ \Delta(g) = g \otimes g, & \Delta(x) = 1 \otimes x + x \otimes g, \\ \alpha(g) = g^{-1}, & \alpha(x) = -\omega^{-1} g^{-1} x. \end{array}$$

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This  $A$  has  $n$  projective indecomposable modules, each of dimension  $m$ , whereas its  $n$  simple modules are all 1-dimensional.

- **Example 3:** Fix integers  $m \geq 0$  and  $n > 0$  such that  $n$  is even and  $n$  lies in  $\mathbb{F}^\times$ . Fix a primitive  $n$ -th root of unity  $\omega \in \mathbb{F}$ . (Recall we assumed  $\mathbb{F}$  algebraically closed!)

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$$A(n, m) = \mathbb{F}[\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}] \ltimes_{\mathbb{F}} \bigwedge [x_1, \dots, x_m],$$

for the cyclic group  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} = \{e, g, g^2, \dots, g^{n-1}\}$  acting this time on coefficients in an exterior algebra  $\bigwedge_{\mathbb{F}} [x_1, \dots, x_m]$ , via  $g x_i g^{-1} = \omega x_i$ .

- **Example 3:** Fix integers  $m \geq 0$  and  $n > 0$  such that  $n$  is even and  $n$  lies in  $\mathbb{F}^\times$ . Fix a primitive  $n$ -th root of unity  $\omega \in \mathbb{F}$ . (Recall we assumed  $\mathbb{F}$  algebraically closed!)

As an  $\mathbb{F}$ -algebra,  $A$  is given by

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{generators} & g, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m \\ \text{relations} & g^n = 1, \quad x_i^2 = 0, \\ & x_i x_j = -x_j x_i, \quad g x_i g^{-1} = \omega x_i. \end{array}$$

This  $A$  has  $\mathbb{F}$ -basis  $\{g^i x_J : 0 \leq i < n, J \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, m\}\}$  (where  $x_J := x_{j_1} x_{j_2} \cdots x_{j_k}$  if  $J = \{j_1 < j_2 < \cdots < j_k\}$ ), whence  $\dim A = n2^m$ .

It becomes a Hopf algebra by setting

$$\begin{array}{ll} \epsilon(g) = 1, & \epsilon(x_i) = 0, \\ \Delta(g) = g \otimes g, & \Delta(x_i) = 1 \otimes x_i + x_i \otimes g^{n/2}, \\ \alpha(g) = g^{-1}, & \alpha(x_i) = -x_i g^{n/2}. \end{array}$$

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It is defined as the  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module with
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- The  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module  $G_0(A)$  becomes a ring (not always commutative) by setting  $[V] \cdot [W] = [V \otimes W]$  and  $1 = [\epsilon]$ .

## The McKay matrix of an $A$ -module, 1

- Now, let us generalize the McKay matrix of a group representation to the case of an  $A$ -module.



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- The *McKay matrix* of  $V$  is the  $(\ell + 1) \times (\ell + 1)$ -matrix  $M_V$  whose  $(i, j)$ -th entry is the multiplicity  $[S_j \otimes V : S_i]$  of the simple  $A$ -module  $S_i$  in (a composition series of)  $S_j \otimes V$ . In other words, its entries are chosen to satisfy

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- We define a further  $(\ell + 1) \times (\ell + 1)$ -matrix  $L_V$  (our “Laplacian”) by  $L_V = nI - M_V$ .

## The critical group of an $A$ -module

- We want to define our critical group  $K(V)$  in such a way that  $\text{coker}(L_V) \cong \mathbb{Z} \oplus K(V)$ .  
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How do we pick up a canonical complement to  $\mathbb{Z}$ ?
- It is tempting to again define  $\overline{L}_V$  by removing the trivial row and trivial column from  $L_V$ , and set  $K(V) = \text{coker}(\overline{L}_V)$ . But that does not work.

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- In matrix terms:

Consider the column vector

$\mathbf{s} = (\dim S_1, \dim S_2, \dots, \dim S_{\ell+1})^T$ . Then, set

$K(V) = \mathbf{s}^\perp / \text{Im}(L_V)$ , where  $\mathbf{s}^\perp = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}^{\ell+1} \mid \mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{x} = 0\}$ .

## The critical group of an $A$ -module

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- More conceptually:  
There is an *augmentation map* on  $G_0(A) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ . This is the ring homomorphism sending each  $[V]$  to  $\dim V$ .  
Let  $I$  be its kernel.
- Set  $K(V) = I / G_0(A)(n - [V])$ .  
Note that multiplication by  $n - [V]$  corresponds to the action of  $M_V$ , so this makes sense.



- **Theorems (G., Huang, Reiner):**

- $\mathbf{p} = (\dim P_1, \dim P_2, \dots, \dim P_{\ell+1})^T \in \ker(L_V)$ ,  
whereas

$$\mathbf{s} = (\dim S_1, \dim S_2, \dots, \dim S_{\ell+1})^T \in \ker((L_V)^T).$$

These vectors span the respective kernels over  $\mathbb{Q}$  if and only if the  $A$ -module  $V$  is *tensor-rich* (which is our way to say that each simple  $A$ -module appears in a composition series of  $V^{\otimes k}$  for at least one  $k$ ).

- **Theorems (G., Huang, Reiner):**

- If  $A = \mathbb{F}G$  is a group algebra, then  $M_V$  and  $L_V$  can be diagonalized:
  - Fix a *Brauer character*  $\chi_W$  for each  $A$ -module  $W$ .
  - Given a  $p$ -regular element  $g \in G$ , let  $\mathbf{s}(g) = (\chi_{S_1}(g), \dots, \chi_{S_{\ell+1}}(g))^T$  be the Brauer character values of the simple  $\mathbb{F}G$ -modules at  $g$ . Then,  $\mathbf{s}(g)$  is an eigenvector of  $(M_V)^T$  (with eigenvalue  $\chi_V(g)$ ) and of  $(L_V)^T$  (with eigenvalue  $n - \chi_V(g)$ ).
  - Given a  $p$ -regular element  $g \in G$ , let  $\mathbf{p}(g) = (\chi_{P_1}(g), \dots, \chi_{P_{\ell+1}}(g))^T$  be the Brauer character values of the indecomposable projective  $\mathbb{F}G$ -modules at  $g$ . Then,  $\mathbf{p}(g)$  is an eigenvector of  $M_V$  (with eigenvalue  $\chi_V(g)$ ) and of  $L_V$  (with eigenvalue  $n - \chi_V(g)$ ).

- **Theorems (G., Huang, Reiner):**

- If the  $A$ -module  $V$  is tensor-rich, then  $\overline{L_V}$  is a nonsingular M-matrix.

(Hence, a theory of “chip-firing” exists. We have not studied it. It is complicated by the fact that  $K(V)$  is not generally isomorphic to  $\text{coker} \left( \overline{(L_V)^T} \right)$  any more.)

- **Theorems (G., Huang, Reiner):**

- If the  $A$ -module  $V$  is tensor-rich, then  $\overline{L_V}$  is a nonsingular M-matrix.
- Actually, the following are equivalent:
  - (i) The matrix  $\overline{L_V}$  (obtained from  $L_V$  by removing the row and the column corresponding to the trivial  $A$ -module  $\varepsilon$ ) is a nonsingular M-matrix.
  - (ii) The matrix  $\overline{L_V}$  is nonsingular.
  - (iii)  $L_V$  has rank  $\ell$ , so nullity 1.
  - (iv) The critical group  $K(V)$  is finite.
  - (v) The  $A$ -module  $V$  is tensor-rich.

- **Theorems (G., Huang, Reiner):**

- If the  $A$ -module  $V$  is tensor-rich, then  $\overline{L_V}$  is a nonsingular M-matrix.
- If the  $A$ -module  $V$  is tensor-rich, then

$$\begin{aligned} \#K(V) &= \left| \frac{\gamma}{\dim A} (\text{product of the nonzero eigenvalues of } L_V) \right|, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\gamma = \gcd(\dim P_1, \dim P_2, \dots, \dim P_{\ell+1})$ .

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If  $A = \mathbb{F}G$  is a group algebra, then this can be rewritten in a more explicit way using Brauer characters as well:

$$\#K(V) = \frac{\gamma}{\#G} \prod_{[g] \neq [e] \text{ is a } p\text{-regular conjugacy class in } G} (n - \chi_V(g)).$$

Also,  $\gamma$  is the size of the  $p$ -Sylow subgroups of  $G$  if  $\mathbb{F}$  has characteristic  $p > 0$ .

- **Theorems (G., Huang, Reiner):**

- If the  $A$ -module  $V$  is tensor-rich, then  $\overline{L_V}$  is a nonsingular M-matrix.
- For the regular  $A$ -module  $A$ , we have

$$K(A) \cong (\mathbb{Z}/\gamma\mathbb{Z}) \oplus (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^{\ell-1}.$$

Here,  $n = \dim A$ ,  $\gamma = \gcd(\dim P_1, \dim P_2, \dots, \dim P_{\ell+1})$   
and  $\ell = (\text{number of simple } A\text{-modules}) - 1$ .

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- Does the theory extend to infinite-dimensional  $A$  ? (Think of universal enveloping algebras – the finite-dimensional  $A$ -modules can be fairly tame.)

## Thanks to

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